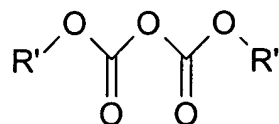


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The compounds of formula I in which R is a group -COOR' can be obtained from the compounds of formula Ia by reaction with a pyrocarbonate of the formula



in which R' is a ~~C₁-C₃-alkyl~~ C₁-C₄ alkyl group, the reaction being carried out in an aprotic solvent such as acetonitrile, in the presence of an aprotic base such as 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (DMAP).